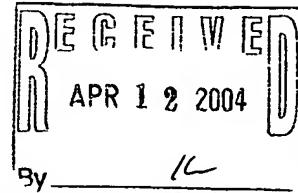


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)



Applicant's or agent's file reference P1243 PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US 03/33525	International filing date (day/month/year) 01/10/2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 22/10/2002
Applicant MEDTRONIC VASCULAR, INC.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

contained in the international application in written form.

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

DOCKETED

MDC *[Signature]*

RED BOOK _____

2nd Review _____

5. With regard to the abstract,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

as suggested by the applicant.

because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

because this figure better characterizes the invention.

None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

The stent (120) with an eccentric coating (130) of the present invention provides a coating having a different coating thickness on the stent outer diameter and stent inner diameter, i.e., an eccentric coating. The eccentric coating can be the primary carrier for a drug or other therapeutic agent. The eccentric coating can be thicker on the stent outer diameter to supply more drug to the vessel wall in which the coated stent is deployed and less drug to the vessel lumen. In one embodiment, a cap coating (125) can be disposed on the eccentric coating to protect the eccentric coating, control the elution rate from the eccentric coating, provide an additional drug carrier, or provide combinations thereof. The eccentric coating can be applied by spraying a coating liquid on the stent outer diameter with a fixture mandrel interior to the stent to regulate the spray to the stent inner diameter.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61F2/

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 99 32051 A (BANAS CHRISTOPHER E ;KOWLIGI RAJAGOPAL R (US); EDWIN TARUN J (US);) 1 July 1999 (1999-07-01)	1
A	page 7, line 25 – line 29 page 10, line 8 – line 11 page 10, line 24 – line 25 page 13, line 20 – line 24 figure 9	14
P,X	US 2003/088307 A1 (SHULZE JOHN E ET AL) 8 May 2003 (2003-05-08) paragraph '0013! paragraph '0019! paragraph '0049! paragraph '0061! – paragraph '0065! paragraph '0069! figures 5-7	1-7, 14, 15, 17

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

2 April 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

14/04/2004

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Amaro, H

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Information on patent family members

International Application No.
PCT/US 03/33525

Patent document cited in search	Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
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		AU	8298598 A		12-07-1999
		EP	1041941 A1		11-10-2000
		JP	2001526080 T		18-12-2001
		WO	9932051 A1		01-07-1999
		US	2003201058 A1		30-10-2003
		US	2001025131 A1		27-09-2001
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US 2003088307	A1 08-05-2003	US	2003125800 A1		03-07-2003
		US	2003225450 A1		04-12-2003